

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02249 210849Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 AID-05 HA-05
/121 W

-----068933 211043Z /17

R 210500Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9964
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USUN NEW YORK 2143
USLO PEKING
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SEOUL 2249

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, KS, KN
SUBJECT: ROK STATEMENTS ON CANCELLATION OF NORTH-SOUTH
RED CROSS MEETING

REF: SEOUL 2222(DTG 200610Z MAR 78)

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE ROK NATIONAL
RED CROSS ON MARCH 20, 1978, AFTER NORTH KOREANS FAILED TO
APPEAR FOR THE SCHEDULED RED CROSS MEETING. UNOFFICIAL
TRANSLATION. BEGIN TEXT: STATEMENT OF REPUBLIC OF KOREA
NATIONAL RED CROSS (ROKNRC) SPOKESMAN, MARCH 20, 1978,
1020 HOURS, AT FREEDOM HOUSE, PANMUNJOM.

1. ON MARCH 19, 1978, AT 7 O'CLOCK, P.M., VIA PYONGYANG
RADIO, THE NORTH KOREAN RED CROSS (NKRC) SENT A RADIO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SEOUL 02249 210849Z

MESSAGE TO THE ROKNRC ANNOUNCING UNILATERALLY, ON THE PRETEXT
OF THE RECENTLY CONDUCTED JOINT ROK-US OPERATIONAL EXERCISE,
THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE 26TH SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS WORKING
LEVEL MEETING WHICH THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED TO HOLD AT
10 O'CLOCK ON MARCH 20, 1978 AT THE PANMUNJOM NEUTRAL
NATIONS SUPERVISORY COMMISSION (NNSC) CONFERENCE ROOM.

2. IN RESPONSE, THE ROKNRC DELEGATION NOTIFIED THE NKRC AT 8 O'CLOCK, A.M., ON MARCH 20, 1978 THAT THE SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS WORKING LEVEL MEETING COULD NOT BE POSTPONED ON THE BASIS OF SUCH AN UNJUSTIFIABLE EXCUSE AND THAT THE MEETING MUST BE HELD AS SCHEDULED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MUTUAL AGREEMENT. ACCORDINGLY, THE ROKNRC DELEGATION CAME TO THE CONFERENCE SITE AT PANMUNJOM THIS MORNING BUT THE NK SIDE FAILED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING.

3. THE NKRC SIDE'S ATTITUDE IN REJECTING THE DIALOGUE IS NOT ONLY A VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT OF THE TWO SIDES BUT IT ALSO RUNS COUNTER TO THE HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT OF THE RED CROSS AND THE SPIRIT OF THE JULY 4 SOUTH-NORTH JOINT COMMUNIQUE. FURTHERMORE, IT IS EXTREMELY REGRETTABLE, SINCE IT IS AN ACT NOT ONLY BETRAYING THE ASPIRATIONS OF 10 MILLION SEPARATED FAMILIES AND THE 50 MILLION PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY, BUT ALSO GOING COUNTER TO EFFORTS FOR PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF OUR FATHERLAND.

4. IN THE COURSE OF PAST MEETINGS, THE NKRC SIDE INTERRUPTED THE PLENARY TALKS ON THE PRETEXT OF THE SO-CALLED "ATMOSPHERE IN SEOUL" AND THEN NOT ONLY REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE AGENDA ITEMS OF THE PLENARY TALKS, BUT WENT FURTHER TO CUT OFF THE DIRECT-LINE TELEPHONE BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA UNDER THE EXCUSE OF SO-CALLED "POLITICAL PRECONDITIONS". NOW AGAIN UNDER AN UNREASONABLE EXCUSE THEY HAVE UNILATERALLY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SEOUL 02249 210849Z

POSTPONED EVEN THE WORKING LEVEL MEETING. THUS, WE ARE MADE TO WONDER IF THEY INDEED HAVE THE INTENT TO ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERINGS OF THE SEPARATED FAMILIES IN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA.

5. IF THERE WERE PROBLEMS BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA, THE RIGHT ATTITUDE IS TO TRY TO SETTLE THEM THROUGH PEACEFUL DIALOGUES INSTEAD OF UNILATERALLY POSTPONING OR SUSPENDING THE DIALOGUE. YET, THE NK SIDE'S PRESENT STATEMENT THAT THEY DO NOT WANT TO HOLD EVEN THE WORKING LEVEL MEETING CAN BE INTERPRETED ONLY AS MEANING THEY WANT TO INCREASE, INTENTIONALLY, TENSION BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA AND THAT THEY HAVE NO INTENT TO SETTLE PROBLEMS OF THE SAME PEOPLE THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS.

6. THE NKRC SIDE MUST CONSENT TO HOLDING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE 26TH SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS WORKING LEVEL MEETING TO FULFILL THE EXTREMELY PRECIOUS TASK ENTRUSTED TO THE SOUTH-NORTH RED CROSS TALKS AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF 50 MILLION PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY. IF THE NK SIDE SHOULD ACT OTHERWISE, CONTINUING TO REFUSE THE DIALOGUE AND TO DENY PEACE, IT WILL HAVE COMMITTED A NATIONAL ERROR, AND

FOR ALL CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM SUCH AN ERROR THE NK
SIDE MUST ASUME THE ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY.

7. THE ROKNRC DELEGATION HEREBY PLEDGES ITSELF TO EXERT
ITS UTMOST PERSEVERANCE AND SINCERITY FOR THE REUNION OF
10 MILLION SEPARATED FAMILIES AND FOR SETTLEMENT OF
HUMANITARIAN ISSUES BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA IN DEFIANCE
OF WHATEVER DIFFICULTIES THERE MAY BE. END TEXT.
SNEIDER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL02249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780124-0089
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780342/aaaabjil.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7a3061c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SEOUL 2222
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3254523
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK STATEMENTS ON CANCELLATION OF NORTH-SOUTH RED CROSS MEETING
TAGS: PEPR, KS, KN, ARC
To: STATE TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7a3061c0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014